REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Pursuant to P.A. 245 of 2008 Section 909

GED Certification Rates and Improvement Plan

The expectation during an average two-to-three year prison sentence is that prisoner students need to advance by half a dozen years in order to attain their GED. While public schools measure success by student advancement of one grade level per year, prisoner students are regularly advanced by two or more grade levels in one year. The teachers of MDOC meet the challenges this population presents and helps prepare prisoners for return to their communities.

MDOC educators instruct a unique and challenging population. For these prisoner students, the following barriers have been identified:

- Low grade level test scores
- Repeated public school failures
- A need for significant amounts of basic instruction before they can begin GED preparation
- Mental and physical health needs that create barriers to learning
- Previous negative education experiences along with poor attitudes toward learning
- Lack of study habits, work ethic, or knowledge of testing strategies, all of which must be taught in addition to core curricula
- History of polysubstance abuse, which is known to result in memory loss and learning difficulties
- Previous special education history, which indicates a potential impediment to the learning process
- Custody, security, transfers and other administrative priorities impact the continuity of the education delivery process
- Short prison sentences present challenges to the education system to advance prisoners through GED program

2008-09 Program Improvement Plan to Overcome Challenges and Increase GED Success

	ADMINISTRATION					
	Program Oversight					
Year	Improvement Plan	Status				
2005-06	Monitor and review programs for consistency through school audits.	All schools were audited, received reports and developed plans to correct deficiencies.				
	Begin new audit cycle with improved audit factors. Continue the audit cycle (Audit Factors attached)	Audit schedule for 06/07 implemented. In Progress				
	Revise audit factors and continue audit cycle.	In Progress				
	Maintain curriculum committees to review/recommend program	Completed				
2003-00	improvements.	Completed				
2006-07	Restructure committees to better meet goals and objectives of education and the department.	Committees restructured as of January 2007.				
2007-08	Focus has changed to Advisory Committees as opposed to curriculum only. (See committee appointments & 2009 Charter Drafts attached)	Ongoing				
2008-09	Complete annual review of committee membership and monitor continuous improvement.	Ongoing				
2005-06	Focus teaching resources on effective GED preparation.	Grant funding used to standardize and expand materials.				
2006-07	Require use of purchased resources that have been determined to best meet GED requirements.	School budgets and approved materials list are established to guide expenditures.				
2007-08	Research best available resources for effective GED preparation. (Approved Materials List attached)	Academic committee will monitor the status of newly-distributed resource materials				
2008-09	Pilot use of additional resources to address academic deficiencies.	Academic Advisory Committee will monitor the pilots.				
2005-06	Ensure program standardization to provide minimal disruption when prisoners are transferred.	Completed				
	Monitor through the audit process.	Ongoing				
	Monitor through the audit process.	Ongoing				
2008-09	Monitor through the audit process and advisory committees.	Ongoing				
	Develop a "Fast Track" GED process where prisoners identified as high functioning are GED tested without delay.	Completed				
2006-07	Enhance materials and process to optimize the "Fast Track" system.	Materials/process under review by Academic Curriculum Committee.				
2007-08	Implement GED half test and GED testing at RGC and monitor effectiveness of distributed materials.	In pilot status				
2008-09	Continue GED testing at RGC and monitor results.	Ongoing				
2005-06	Establish tester positions by geographic locations to increase efficiency of testing operations.	Initial positions filled / Ongoing as needed.				
2006-07	N/A	Ongoing positions filled as needed.				
2007-08		Ongoing positions filled as needed.				
2008-09		Ongoing positions filled as needed.				
	Establish MSI/Education Workgroups.	Committees established.				
2008-09	-09 Devise and implement collaborations between MSI and Education. Ongoing					

	ADMINISTRATION - Continued					
	Program Oversight					
Year	Improvement Plan	Status				
2008-09	•	Ongoing				
	(boot camp); and is providing additional programming and support.					
2005-06	Maintain liaison with GED and state Adult Education offices (DLEG).	Collaboration included cross training and participation in numerous DLEG (Adult Education) statewide task forces. (Ongoing).				
	Maintain active participation in DLEG task forces that impact the MDOC education system.	Ongoing				
2008-09	Continue participation in the task forces and curriculum partnership. Continue participation in the task forces and curriculum partnership, implement DLEG Workers in the 21st Century curriculum, represent MDOC on DLEG committees, attend Special Education Advisory Committee meetings, coordinate with state and National GED	Ongoing Ongoing				
	administrators.					
	Establish a goal for increased GED completions, based on school enrollment and staffing.	Completed				
2006-07	Increased pass rate goal for each school.	Monitor through the school audit process.				
	staffing.	Monitor through the school audit process.				
		Monitor through the school audit process.				
	Establish a goal of 70 percent overall GED passing rate to optimize testing economics and opportunities.*	Ongoing				
	Maintain goal of 70%.	Ongoing				
	Maintain goal of 70%.	Ongoing				
	Maintain goal of 70%.	Ongoing				
	Prioritize work of the School Psychologists: first, special education evaluations; and second, GED testing accommodations to improve GED passing rates.	Completed				
2006-07		N/A				
2007-08		N/A				
2008-09		N/A				
	Recommend a plan to transfer prisoners at facilities whose schools have enrollment space, thus minimizing wait lists. Continuously monitor and work with prisoner transportation office to maintain	Completed				
	this system to the extent possible. Continuously monitor and work with prisoner transportation office to maintain					
	this system to the extent possible.					
	Continuously monitor and work with prisoner transportation office to maintain this system to the extent possible.	Ongoing				
	Support the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative in all plans and provide	Ongoing				
	resources to best ensure those entering the community through participation in the initiative have their GED.					
	Curriculum Committee chairs to take active role in MPRI planning meetings and program development. Also, to include representative from Office of Re-Entry on appropriate committee's).	Ongoing				
2007-08	Invite MPRI representatives to all appropriate Education meetings.	Initiate				
2008-09	Continue to extend invitations to education meetings.	MPRI representatives are encouraged to attend				
		so that information and planning can be shared.				

 $^{^*}$ This allows more prisoners to take the GED and increase the probability of more passing the test. An extremely high (i.e. 100% passing rate) could mean the GED was only administered to prisoners guaranteed to pass - creating a 100% passing rate.

	ADMINISTRATION - Continued				
	Program Oversight				
Year	Improvement Plan	Status			
2006-07	Increase frequency of testing, special education and academic staff in prisons where population has increased to improve education opportunities for prisoners. Additionally, increase Central Office staff by at least (1) Special Education Consultant and possibly (1) Department Technician position.	In Progress			
2007-08	Create education staffing reorganization plan.	Submitted for consideration.			
	Reorganization plan submitted.	Pendng approval for reorganization plan.			
2008-09	In conjunction with DLEG, conduct a feasibility study to assess the	Waiting for DLEG response.			
2000 05	viability of implementation of the high school diploma/GED funding to	The state of the s			
2006-07	local school districts. Review all policies and identify need for new policy/procedures or revisions.	Under Review			
2000 07	review an ponetes and identity need for new poney/procedures of fevisions.	onder neview			
2007-08	Review all policies and identify need for new policy/procedures or revisions.	In progress			
2008-09	Revisions submitted	Awaiting approval.			
2006-07	Put closure to the proposed action plan's) developed in response to the Prisoner Education Risk Assessment that was initiated by the Prisoner Education Office in February 2006. This was done with the hope of improving efficiency and effectiveness of prisoner education.	Proposed plans were provided to administration for consideration and appropriate action.			
2008-09	Previously submitted	Pending administrative action			
2006-07	Train teachers statewide to improve clear/measurable written goals and objectives for each prisoner. This is critical to the continuity of programming especially since transfers are so prevalent. This will be monitored and further individualized training provided as needed to ensure compliance.	Monitor through the school audit process.			
2007-08	Prepare an in-service training.	Education Steering Committee plan for training.			
2008-09	Review materials to assist teachers.	Education Steering Committee plan for training.			
	Establish enrollment priorities.	In Progress			
	Establish enrollment priorities.	Completed			
2006-07	Review school principal positions at isolated facilities and larger schools to improve efficiency and effectiveness of prisoner education program delivery and also to increase accountability in school leadership.				
2007-08	Develop a reorganization plan for school principals.	Included in the education reorganizational plan and			
		submitted for consideration.			
2008-09	Submitted the reorganization plan.	Awaiting approval			
	DATA COLLECTION AND REF Efficiency of Enrollment and Data C				
Voor	·	Status			
	Improvement Plan Improve data input and output collection.	Completed - Offender Education Tracking System			
2003-00	improve data input and output concenting.	(OETS) implemented statewide.			
2006-07	In order to improve ability to respond to educational needs, track progress, and identify program strengths and weaknesses in a timely manner, will continue ongoing development/improvement of statewide education data collection system (OETS).	OETS workgroup of practitioners established to review and reconcile to further enhance the system.			
2008-09	Researching private contractor to provide and maintain technological services for Lansing review.	Obtaining approval from DIT to implement technological services contract.			

	DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING - Continued Efficiency of Enrollment and Data Collection				
Year	Improvement Plan	Status			
2007-08	In order to improve ability to respond to educational needs, track progress, and identify program strengths and weaknesses in a timely manner, will continue ongoing development/improvement of statewide education data	OETS enhancements submitted to DIT - Ongoing			
2008-09	collection system (OETS). Enhancements prepared to better collect data. Secretary's Manual under revision to include OETS updates. OETS in-service workshop being planned.	OETS enhancements submitted to DIT - Ongoing			
2007-08	Initiate MSI/Education OETS Workgroups to collect and record MSI data.	Complete			
2008-09	Create OETS modules and tabs to record MSI data.	Assign to MSI/Education OETS Workgroup.			
2005-06	Optimize the ability to establish and measure outcomes.	Completed - Ongoing Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) 9 & 10 / OETS implemented.			
	Continue to improve OETS and the accuracy/availability of useful data through OETS workgroup efforts and staff training.	Ongoing			
2007-08	Develop statewide OETS training to improve accuracy and standardization.	On hold, awaiting DIT enhancement implementation.			
	Secretary's Manual under revision to include OETS updates. OETS inservice workshop being planned.	Finalization of manual and workshop awaiting DIT approval of enhancements.			
	Monitor and review programs for consistency through mandated data entry reporting.	Random reports of selected data pulled quarterly.			
2006-07	Pull random reports and follow-up, correct deficiencies as needed.	Extract and analyze reports quarterly through OETS workgroup.			
	Work with DIT and DLEG to increase the rate of successful transfer of data from MDOC to MAERS.	Extract and analyze reports quarterly through OETS workgroup.			
2008-09	Identified and addressed errors in data collection and transfer.	OETS DIT representative is working to resolve the issues.			
	Complete annual prisoner educational surveys, in compliance with Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) adult education program recommendations.	Survey developed and system implemented.			
2006-07		Ongoing			
2007-08	Complete annual prisoner educational surveys, in compliance with Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) adult education program recommendations. Also, developed workgroup with DIT/DLEG and MDOC	Ongoing			
	to collaborate on data transfer process. Complete annual prisoner educational surveys, in compliance with DLEG adult education program recommendations.	Ongoing			
	Compile data on prisoner annual education program surveys to identify potential areas for review.	Completed - Ongoing			
2006-07	Refer compiled data to Academic Curriculum committee for recommended action.	Ongoing			
	Refer compiled data to Academic Curriculum committee for recommended action.	Ongoing			
	Present the compiled data from the prisoner annual education program surveys to the Education Steering Committee for recommended action.	Ongoing			

CURRICULUM					
	Program Improvement through Curriculum Design				
Year	Improvement Plan	Status			
2005-06	Develop a standard, individualized, and performance-based progress plotter for academic programming to further continuity, consistency, and efficiency.	Math plotter was developed.			
2006-07	Develop a standard, individualized, and performance-based progress plotter for remaining academic programs to further continuity, consistency, and efficiency.				
2007-08	Develop a standard, individualized, and performance-based progress plotter for academic programming to further continuity, consistency, and efficiency.	Ongoing			
2008-09	All progress plotters were reviewed, and are continuously monitored for alignment with curriculum.	Ongoing			
	Identify additional math/writing materials and strategies for increasing competencies, leading to a greater percentage of successful GED subtest completion.	Purchased ESL and Writing materials. Identified software that will enhance these skills. "Strategies" training provided to teachers through Professional Development.			
	Continue action on 05-06 plan. Continue action on 05-06 plan.				
2008-09	Piloting KeyTrain, America's Choice, and My Reading Coach	Ongoing			
2005.06	Implement curriculum improvement as resources allow.	Ongoing			
	Request best practices be submitted by each school annually.	Oligoling			
	Review current research, curriculum materials and best practices to continually improve programs.	Ongoing for all committees.			
2008-09	Best practices were presented at the academic in-service workshop. Best practices collected in the audit process.	Ongoing			
	Review current CTE curriculum to assure cost-effectiveness and relevance.	Ongoing for RETTE committee.			
2008-09	Piloting alternative curriculum models. Working with MSU/consultant to improve curriculum.	Ongoing for RETTE committee.			
2007-08	Modify and improve BET/VGT program.	Under development by RETTE committee.			
2008-09	Alternative curriculum adopted to reflect needs.	Ongoing			
2007-08	Develop operating procedure and method for reporting newly-developed levels of CTE completion.	Assign to RETTE committee.			
2008-09	All CTE program tiers developed.	Ongoing			
2007-08	Review and update Special Education forms.	Under development by Spec Ed committee.			
2008-09	Forms were updated.	Submitted for electronic forms design.			
2007-08	Review/update mandated plans of action for Special Ed students.	Under development by Spec Ed committee.			
2008-09	Under consideration by previous Special Education Consultant; to be reviewed by newly-hired consultant.	Ongoing			
	Develop computer operations program.	Under development by RETTE committee.			
2008-09	Digital Literacy program and plotter designed.	Pending DIT install software.			
2007-08	Determine challenges for pre-release delivery to MSI prisoner, plan implementation.	Assign to MSI/Education Workgroup - Complete.			
2008-09	Implement pre-release delivery plan and train staff as needed.	Assign to MSI/Education Workgroup.			

	TESTING MANDATES				
Test Administration and Assessment Improvements					
Year	Improvement Plan	Status			
	Develop a standardized "Test Taking" module to assist prisoners in overcoming anxiety and to increase potential for score improvement.	To be assigned to appropriate Curriculum Committee.			
2007-08	Develop a standardized "Test Taking" module to assist prisoners in overcoming anxiety and to increase potential for score improvement.	Under completion by the Academic Committee.			
2008-09	Module completed.	Presented at the academic in-service workshop.			
2005-06	Mandate schools to give the full battery of GED tests to prisoners testing for the first time.	Completed			
2006-07	Monitor compliance.	Ongoing			
2008-09	Monitor compliance.	Ongoing			
2007-08	Review GED test pass/fail rate for cost-effectiveness and study alternatives to	Under review			
2008-09	increase success Use OETS data to review GED pass/fail rates for cost effectiveness.	To be assigned to appropriate OETS Workgroup.			
2005-06	Increase frequency of testing to ensure that schools test on a regular schedule,	Completed			
2003 00	which would increase frequency of testing and positively impacts results.	Completed			
2006-07	Monitor compliance.	Ongoing			
	Monitor compliance.	Ongoing			
	Monitor compliance.	Ongoing			
2005-06	Develop a statewide, standardized testing (Test of Adult Basic Education,	Completed			
	TABE) schedule to improve the capture and quality of achievement data in the				
	state in order to compare with other Adult Education Programs.				
2006-07	Evaluate the effectiveness of the new process.	Assign task to appropriate Curriculum Committee.			
	Evaluate the effectiveness of the new process.	Compile data			
2008-09	Review statewide, standardized testing (Test of Adult Basic Education, TABE); revise scheduling in response to finding on DLEG's federal audit.	Assign to Academic Committee.			
	Ensure the statewide GED operating procedures provide guidelines to optimize testing.	Completed			
2006-07	Develop guidelines for the timely and appropriate application of testing				
2007.00	accommodations to help improve passing rates.				
2007-08	Update the statewide GED operating procedure.	Assign task to appropriate Curriculum Committee.			
2008-09	Review accommodation procedures in response to GED Testing Service revised guidelines.	Assign to Academic Committee.			
	Increase GED testing at prison reception centers.	Complete			
	Complete GED half testing and GED testing on eligible prisoners at RGC.				
	Establish Workgroups to review evaluations and assignments at MSI.	Assign MSI/Education Workgroups - Complete			
	Review work evaluation reports and assessments; devise staff training.	Assign to MSI/Education			
	Piloted WorkKeys at MSI Laundry Sites.	Complete			
2008-09	Review WorkKeys pilot, determine feasibility of further testing.	Assign to MSI/Education			
	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPI Professional Development to Improve Program Efficiency and Effectiven				
Voor					
	Improvement Plan	Status			
	Disseminate information on current trends and mandates.	Completed			
	Disseminate information on current trends and mandates.	Ongoing			
	7-08 Disseminate information on current trends and mandates. Ongoing				
2008-09	Disseminate information on current trends and mandates.	Ongoing			

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - Continued Professional Development to Improve Program Efficiency and Effectiveness and to Optimize Data Management				
Year	Improvement Plan	Status		
	Provide training to those responsible for data entry.	Completed - Initial OETS training		
	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.			
2007-08	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	On hold, awaiting DIT enhancement		
2008-09	Develop In-service training.	implementation. On hold, awaiting DIT enhancement implementation.		
	Provide additional training and materials for English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers.	Completed		
2006-07	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Ongoing		
2007-08	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Ongoing		
2008-09	Conduct In-service.	Assigned to the Academic Advisory Committee		
	Provide professional development to further improve teaching techniques, best practices, and instructional strategies.	Completed		
	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.			
2007-08	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Assign task to appropriate Curriculum Committee.		
2008-09	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Ongoing		
	Provide teachers with enhanced training in the writing of clear, measurable, and effective education objectives.	Completed		
	Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Ongoing		
	Develop a compilation of representative or sample of clear, measurable, and effective education goals and objectives.	Assign task to appropriate Curriculum Committees.		
	Provide resources for the writing of clear, measurable and effective education goals and objectives.	Assign to Education Steering Committee.		
	Distribute appropriately updated Teacher, Secretary, and School Principal Manuals.			
2007-08	Review and update Teacher, Secretary, and School Principal Manuals.	Assign task to appropriate subcommittees.		
	Teacher and Principal Manuals have been revised. Secretary's Manual is under revision.	Teacher and Principal Manuals have been submitted for review and distribution. Secretary's Manual distribution is awaiting DIT OETS enhancement release.		
2006-07	Deliver a math and writing refresher workshop for GED prep teachers.	Assign to Academic Advisory Committee.		
	Presented In-service training.	Training Completed		
2008-09	Additional math training to be reviewed.	Assign to Academic Advisory Committee.		
	Training of special education and regular academic teachers regarding special education requirements and resources to help increase GED completions of special education eligible students.	To be determined.		
2007-08	Teachers attended selected trainings.	Complete		

2009 Boilerplate Sec. 909	Calendar Year	State Population (N) (Census Bureau psus	Inmate Population (N)	Passed battery (N.)	Passed Battery (e.
	2003	10,079,985	49,358	1,763	68.0%
	2004	10,112,620	48,883	1,867	70.0%
MICHIGAN	2005	10,100,833	49,546	2,358	69.0%
MICHIGAN	2006	10,095,643	49,862	2,239	**56.0%
	2007	10,003,422	51,538	2,276	60.5%
	Average	10,078,500	49,837	2,100	64.7%
	2003	17,019,068	82,012	N/A	N/A
	2004	17,397,161	85,533	911	94.0%
	2005	17,768,191	49,143	622	73.6%
*FLORIDA	2006	18,089,888	52,597	619	**65.8%
	2007	18,328,340	92,844	1,624	88.4%
	Average	17,172,529	72,425	944	80.4%
	2003	2,725,714	13,315	N/A	N/A
	2004	2,752,629	13,807	753	72.0%
*******	2005	2,775,708	13,469	935	73.8%
*ARKANSAS	2006	2,810,872	13,570	791	**66.4%
	2007	2,855,390	12,723	819	69.2%
	Average	2,793,290	13,376	824	70.3%
	2003	8,684,715	47,208	N/A	N/A
	2004	8,829,383	51,104	1,765	77.5%
*0500014	2005	9,132,553	48,674	1,709	79.3%
*GEORGIA	2006	9,363,941	52,792	619	**65.8%
	2007	9,685,744	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Average	9,248,247	49,944	1,364	74.2%
	2003	1,305,728	2,013	N/A	N/A
	2004	1,317,253	2,024	43	83.0%
*MAINE	2005	1,318,220	2,022	75	93.8%
WAINE	2006	1,321,574	2,023	62	**95.4%
	2007	1,316,456	2,196	137	92.6%
	Average	1,319,897	2,055	79	91.2%
	2003	5,580,811	31,170	N/A	N/A
	2004	5,743,834	32,515	1,669	88.0%
*ARIZONA	2005	5,953,007	33,535	2,147	64.0%
71111201171	2006	6,166,318	35,794	3,756	**76.6%
	2007	6,500,180	34,474	3,770	75.0%
	Average	6,059,663	33,497	2,835	75.9%
	2003	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2004	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
*TEXAS	2005	22,928,508	152,213	4,757	84.0%
	2006	23,507,783	152,889	5,155	**87.6%
	2007 Average	24,326,974	N/A 152 551	N/A 4 956	N/A 85.8%
	Average	23,218,146	152,551 N/A	4,956 N/A	85.8% N/A
	2003 2004	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A
	2004	36,154,147	46,184	2,187	64.0%
*CALIFORNIA	2005	36,154,147	47,033	2,167	**76.6%
	2007	36,756,661	N/A	2,439 N/A	N/A
		36,305,848	46,608	2,313	70.3%
	Average	30,303,040	40,000	۷,۵۱۵	10.370

	Year	Average
NATIONAL AVERAGE	2003	70.1%
GED Battery Pass Rate	2004	71.2%
	2005	72.1%
	2006	68.7%
	2007	70.5%
(The national average calculated by GEDTS for passing GED includes correctional and community adult educaton)	Average	70.7%

Footnotes

¹ "Passed battery (N)": Number of GED Tests candidates who met passing scores requirements

² "Passed battery (%)" was calculated by dividing the number of GED Tests battery passers by the the number of GED Tests battery completers, then multiplying that number by 100.

 $^{^{\}star}$ This data is self reported and estimated by states listed.

^{**} Per GEDTS and Oklahoma Scoring data nearly 99% of all testing centers in the US had a decrease this year possibly due to new reporting processes by GEDTS. The average percentage reduction for the nation was 3.4%.